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Celebrating High School Grads: Special pages inside

Deputy Premier and Health Minister of Ontario Sylvia Jones speaks with Haliburton Highlands Health Services CT technologists Brook Sigel and Hannah Brown during the official opening of the CT scanner. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Long–awaited HHHS CT scanner now in operation

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) can now offer CT scans to patients right down the hall from the emergency room in the Haliburton hospital.

Construction is finished, and the scanner has been operational for a week, taking up to seven patients a day.

"To say that team and I are excited about this moment in our HHHS and community history would be a serious understatement," said Veronica Nelson, HHHS president and CEO.

Nelson started her health care career in diagnostic imaging as an X-Ray technician.

"Seeing this program begin 20 years ago and now come to life while I am president and CEO is a real pinch-me moment," she said.

The CT scanner began taking patients

see CT page 3

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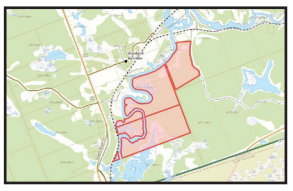

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LCBO strike continues, workers ask for job security and higher wages

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Nine thousand Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) employees have been striking since last week with their workers' union.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union and LCBO have ceased negotiations. Both are willing to start again, but there is one key conflict that the union most concerned about.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has plans to expand where alcohol, specifically ready to drink cocktails, can be sold in the province such as gas stations and grocery stores.

Union leaders believe this will lead to thousands of jobless LCBO employees in the years to come.

"Currently, we're on strike for a number of reasons. One of them being the elimination of severance pay, unfair wages, and making liquor more convenient to purchase elsewhere. LCBO staff were never consulted. It was a decision the government made on their own," said Guy Alaimo, a local LCBO employee.

"It's threatening a lot of jobs, and there's no transparency."

Alaimo said the offered salary increase was two per cent when they asked for nine per cent to account for inflation.

"We're here to support not just workers, but management as well who aren't in the union. Their jobs will be affected as well if we don't get what we want in this next agreement," Alaimo said.

"We're just standing up for a fair wage. We should be the standard for other retailers to look up to in this department. We should be setting an example."

At this point, Ford is not stepping back from his plans.

The union asked for ready to drink cocktails to stay exclusively sold at LCBO stores, to which Ford said, "If they want to negotiate ready to drink beverages, the deal is off. Let me be very clear, it is done, it is gone. The ship has sailed."

Ford is confident a deal can be reached if the union allows LCBO workers to look at his proposal.

"This is the best day of support we've had. It's clear that we have lots of support from the community," Alaimo said last Monday.

LCBO stores will remained closed until an agreement is reached.

P4P adds 20 housing units to its inventory

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

> ***"We have gotten to where we are almost exclusively using local resources to address a local challenge."***
>
> — Fay Martin, vice–preisdent of Places for People

Places for People (P4P) has acquired its newest property on Haliburton's Main Street.

It's an eight-unit property that currently houses 12 people. And Fay Martin, the vice-president at P4P, said she's well aware of what those residents might feel toward the change in ownership.

"I have in my heart what this place means to these people," she said. "They won't be dumped on the side of the road. They will continue to be able to live where they've lived, many of them for several years, and at affordable rates."

Quite simply, that's what Places for People does, Martin said.

From the website: P4P creates and manages quality affordable rental housing in Haliburton County and fosters an environment in which tenants can thrive. The organization is built on the conviction that society thrives when everyone has a place where they belong.

Haliburton County has traditionally vied with Manitoulin Island for the dubious distinction of being the poorest jurisdiction in Ontario, according to Statistics Canada.

The latest acquisition illustrates P4P's progress in ensuring the availability of affordable housing for people who live and work in the area.

Dysart Councillor Pat Casey, a local business owner, offered the property to P4P at a reasonable price before he put it on the open market. It would've been very attractive to up-scale developers, Martin said.

She said in a press release that Casey has always understood the necessity of housing for workers, including his own, which is why the rent rates that P4P inherited with this property are indeed affordable by community standards.

Haliburton needs a range of housing options from tiny homes to suitable options for young families, large families, seniors and individuals. And Casey would like to see different housing options available so people can transition from one type to the next as their situations change.

"People should not have to worry about where they will sleep tonight and they should have the ability to be self-sufficient and contribute to their community," Casey said. "Times are tight right now and, for me corporately and personally, if we do have some money to spread around to help somebody get the next leg up and get started, to me it's a moral responsibility for mankind. It's just good for society as a whole to contribute."

With the latest addition to the housing portfolio, P4P manages six properties with 20 residential units. The group also has its first commercial rental offering which has the potential to be a revenue stream for the organization.

Through the support of the community over the summer 2023 Community Bond Raise of $850,000, P4P was able to consolidate its debt, allowing unencumbered properties to be leveraged to purchase this new property.

According to Martin, these bonds are crucial elements in meeting P4P's financial needs and to support their philosophy of empowering the community to use local resources to meet local needs.

Haliburton County Development Corporation, a long-time P4P supporter, helped with the property acquisition. Kawartha Credit Union has also stepped up, marking the first time a mainstream bank has invested in P4P.

P4P is becoming known across the county and further abroad as a leader in how to move the needle on making housing a priority for everyone. They have housed over 100 people: 32 families including 47 adults and 56 children.

"We have gotten to where we are almost exclusively using local resources to address a local challenge," Martin said. "These newly acquired tenants are all people who live and work in our community. We are inheriting incredibly affordable rents which is very difficult to maintain because we don't have the deep pockets of developers."

P4P's growth depends on the continued generosity of people who support us. Consider making a donation to Places For People to help them settle in this new acquisition and prepare themselves for the next challenge.

Go to placesforpeople.ca/home#donate or email P4P at info@placesforpeople.ca.

CT scanner will serve 6k patients a year

from page 1

on Tuesday, July 9.

"I remember when the application for the CT scanner first came in, and now it's here and working which is just amazing," said Irene Odell, HHHS board of directors chair. "We're really looking forward to increasing the health care that we provide to this community because it's a pretty incredible place."

Nelson thanked the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation staff and board for their fundraising efforts to bring the scanner to the Highlands.

"We're all working together to optimize health and well-being in Haliburton County," Nelson said. "This is a monumental goal."

The CT scanner will be able to take 6,000 patients a year.

"We'll be able to reduce wait times for our patients, and we'll be able to keep ambulances local to service our community," Nelson said.

Haliburton County Paramedics spent more than 2,000 hours transferring patients out of county for CT scans alone.

"This symbolizes commitment to advancing health care in our region. It couldn't have been made possible without all of the collaborative efforts and support of many individuals and organizations," said MPP for Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock Laurie Scott.

Among those in attendance were Deputy Premier and Health Minister of Ontario Sylvia Jones and Scott Ovenden, Chief Regional Officer for East and Toronto Regions of Ontario Health.

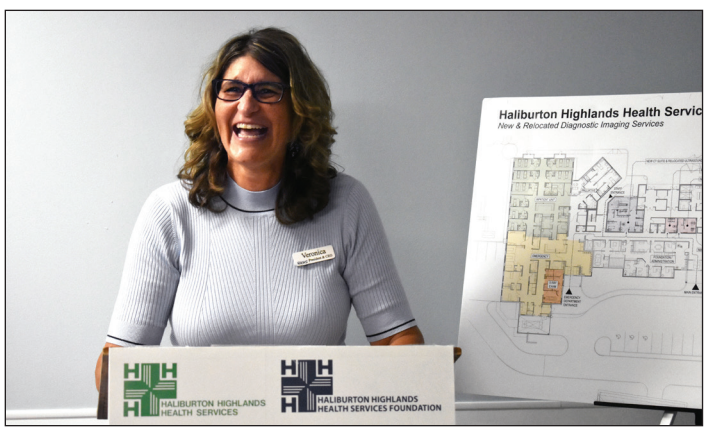
"When I look at what you have been able to accomplish as a community, it has been a challenging time. The fact that you focused on things that were going to make a direct impact on patient care - it couldn't happen without committed donors and committed staff, so congratulations," Jones said.

HHHS is also set to receive a mammography unit by the end of this year.

"I'm particularly excited about the mammography," Jones said. "We're changing and increasing access for women who are 40 and above who would like to self-refer. Having that access in your community is going to help make their decision much easier."

The hospital's bone density scanner will also be moved next door.

From left, Scott Ovenden Chief Regional Officer, East and Toronto Regions, Ontario Health, Melanie Klodt Wong executive director of the HHHS Foundation, Veronica Nelson HHHS president and CEO, Laurie Scott Member of Provincial Parliament for Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock, Sylvia Jones Deputy Premier and Health Minister of Ontario, and Irene Odell chair of the HHHS board of directors stand with HHHS' new CT scanner. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff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HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson shares her joy during the official reveal of the operational CT scanner.

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Jo-Anne Thornton is a co-op student completing a Bachelor of Education in Public Health from Connestoga College. Her co-op placement is currently with the HKPR District Health Unit monitoring the lakes in Haliburton County. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Lakes are now being testing

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton, Kawartha, and Pine Ridge District Health Unit began testing Haliburton County waters for E. coli on June 17. Typically, locations are tested every week. If a swimming area historically has tested well in the past, the testing occurs every two weeks.

Sixteen out of the 19 swimming areas that are tested in Haliburton County are tested every two weeks, said Bernard Mayer, Environmental Health Manager for HKPR District Health.

"We only test for E. coli," said Mayer. "It would be an indicator of feces, either human or animal."

Mayer describes the health of the lakes excellent for swimming. The waters are tested every second week "because they have a history of excellent water quality," said Mayer.

The three locations in Haliburton County that are tested every week include the Rotary Park Lagoon and Rotary Beach in Minden and the Rotary Head Lake Beach in Haliburton.

"Birds, fish, they all do their business in the water," said Mayer. "The likely cause of the elevated E. coli is water fowl. You could be swimming in goose poop."

Elevated levels of E. coli are particularly harmful to young children, said Mayer. Children are more likely to put their head under the water or swallow contaminants and become ill.

The HKPR District Health Unit has a colour coded system of alerts for swimming safety. Alerts are shown on their website or by physical signs throughout the county with green, yellow, and red indicators. Green means the water body is safe to swim in. Yellow means there is a moderate risk to swimming in the water body and that a high level of E. coli has been detected in the water. Red means that there is an elevated amount of E. coli present in the water. There is a greater risk in swimming in the water. Samples are collected where the water is 1 foot deep, six inches under the surface. Five samples are taken from each location.

In the five years of working for the HKPR District Health Unit, Mayer could not recall a time when a beach had to be fully shut down.

It is highly recommended to check the Beach Water Monitoring levels as shown on the HKPR District Health Unit's website www.hkpr.on.ca.

Some other tips that Mayer wishes to share include wearing waterproof sunscreen that is higher than SPF 30, to never swim during a lightning storm, and to always take garbage away with you after enjoying our beaches in the County. When food wrappers and garbage is left, it encourages birds and other wildlife to go the shoreline, further increasing the levels of E. coli in the water.

Blue-Green algae is another risk to people's health when swimming. Despite its name, blue-green algae is a type of bacteria called cyanobacteria. While commonly occurring as a blue-green film on the surface of the lake, it can also be reddish or brown. Not all blooms of blue-green algae produce toxins dangerous to human health . If you believe there is blue-green algae in your water body, contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. They can be contacted over the phone by dialing 1-800-262-6060.

Second World War veteran Cecil Bailey accepts birthday wishes from Nick Bryant on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada during his 100th birthday celebration. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Bailey and his daughter Pearl Wood share a dance to Gord Kidd and Friends playing old country tunes.

Second World War vet dances into his 100th year

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Cecil Bailey was the life of the party at his 100th birthday celebration at the Haliburton Legion on Sunday.

The main hall was packed with friends and family of "Cec", a beloved member of the community who served in Holland during the Second World War as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Bailey was piped in by members of the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums and the Legion Branch 129 colour guard.

With Gord Kidd and Friends playing his favourite old country tunes, he danced the afternoon away.

Bailey was presented with certificates of congratulations sent from Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock MP Jamie Schmale, Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock MPP Laurie Scott, Veterans Affairs Canada, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Prime Minister of Canada, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for his role in the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945.

"It's a wonderful coincidence that you and the Air Force are both turning 100 this year," read a letter from the Ambassador of the Netherlands. "I'm very pleased to offer you our lasting gratitude for your wartime efforts."

Pearl Wood, Bailey's daughter, gave thanks to organizers and attendees on his behalf.

"This has been going on behind the scenes for months. There's been a lot of work put into this," Wood said. "This legion is my dad's family, and there are so many people here that make it possible for him to come and spend time with his friends often."

He's also well-known for his volunteer work at Extendicare in Haliburton and getting up to dance with residents whenever there was music playing.

"I have lots of fond memories of coming up to visit grandpa here in Haliburton," said Bailey's grandson.

He would take his grandchildren outside for tons of activities like fishing and Nordic skiing.

Bailey regularly attends the Friday night Meat Draw and is looking forward to many more visits at the Haliburton Legion with friends.

Family and friends of Bailey filled the Haliburton Legion.

The Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums play Amazing Grace.

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Published by **White Pine Media Corp**

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2018

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A lone buck looks into the distance. by Tammy Nash

Editorial

Give the Legion a lift

vivian collings

I'VE NEVER been to a Haliburton Legion event I didn't like.

The building is pretty near and dear to me and many others.

I spent lots of time in the 1129 army cadet office as a kid, and then even more time on the "parade square" as a teenager when I became a cadet myself.

I was mesmerized by the history in the Mountbatten Room and ran laps around the main hall during fitness nights.

Remembrance Days were always special, serving dignitaries and veterans at the dinner and marching from there in the parade.

The Legion is not just a hall and bar.

It's a gathering place for friends.

It's a venue for important events and milestones.

It would serve as an evacuation shelter in the event of an emergency, and is an evacuation point for Extendicare.

But, the main purpose of every Legion in Canada is to support veterans.

"The Royal Canadian Legion was founded by Veterans and for Veterans. We advocate for the care and benefits for all who served Canada, regardless of when or where they served. The Legion also provides representation and assistance to Veterans, including currently serving Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP, and their families, and access to our services is available to them at no cost, whether or not they are Legion members. The Legion helps thousands of Veterans each year and makes significant positive changes in their lives," says a statement made by the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Haliburton Legion Branch 129 serves as a hub for local veterans.

At the Meat Draw event on Friday nights, many get together and share stories - veterans like Cecil Bailey who just celebrated his 100th birthday at the same Legion.

It was clear that he had made countless connections there, and all of them came out to celebrate him.

Connecting with people who can relate to lived experiences is one of the most important things we can have in life.

Legions have been pressured by the government to become fully accessible by 2025.

This is important, of course, for veterans and other community members to be able to utilize every part of the space.

But it's much easier said than done, especially for a volunteer-run organization.

The Haliburton Legion has already converted a downstairs washroom into an accessible one, but the problem is that the elevator has not yet been installed, meaning there is no accessible way to get to the accessible washroom yet.

It's an expensive, difficult undertaking in a 60 year old building, and one that really needs the community's help.

The Give Us a Lift campaign is fundraising for an elevator and other necessary purchases for the building.

"No donation is too small," says the Haliburton Legion's website.

To see all the ways to help, visit www.haliburtonlegion.com/donate.

The Legion is one of the most important assets of Haliburton, in my opinion.

It's up to all of us that have ever benefited from its existence to make sure it has everything it needs.

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Our road Down

The summer cut

sharon lynch

EVERY YEAR Katie got a summer cut. A few days before her family headed for the cottage, Katie and her sisters were at the hairdresser's watching their curls hit the floor. Although not quite bald, they returned home with little more than an inch of hair. And once they were at the cottage for a few weeks, that hair would inevitably become a lighter shade of its winter version.

Three daughters with long hair was a chore for her mother to deal with in the summer. They practically lived in the water and when not being fish, they explored the property with vigour and ingenuity. Dirt, twigs, brambles and wind did the rest. So instead of cursing the tats and tangles, mum had decided to make the three of them look like boys for the two months they spent at the cottage.

Katie didn't mind – in fact she liked it. The air felt pleasant around her ears and neck on those steamy summer days. It was only once she approached adolescence that she refused to go for the short look.

But in the meantime, the summer cut was just one more aspect of a life so very different from that in the city the rest of the year. It was the same with clothes – at least when she wore them. Bathing suits were the usual and preferred attire and by the end of the summer they were in pretty rough shape. Faded from all that sun, there was usually a hole or two as well.

In the evening the family drove to a small store for the Toronto Star, milk and whatever else was needed. If their bathing suits were dry and it was a particularly hot evening, Katie and siblings were allowed to wear them under a summer top. That summer top was never the spotless version seen at home. All cottage clothing was a bit faded, shapeless and possibly ripped in non-essential places. It reflected the outdoor world to which it was exposed over those long, active days.

As the years passed, Katie would see incarnations of past summer shorts, tops and bathing suits hanging from nails in the back bedroom. These were kept for emergency wear. Perhaps a guest had forgotten to bring a bathing suit or a trip to the laundry mat was overdue.

It was those cottage guests that could be a challenge. A school chum or city neighbour might be invited for a weekend or even a week's visit. She would get a ride with Katie's dad who drove to the cottage on weekends after working in the city all week.

Some of these young guests had never been to a cottage and didn't know what to expect. Attractive, possibly even newly-purchased summer outfits didn't always stand up to the cottage adventures Katie so enjoyed. The outhouse was often a real shock. And they had to be reminded not to drink the water coming out of the tap.

The local handyman dropping by could also cause a stir. He talked differently from city folks and looked rough and tough in his work clothes. More than once Katie had to reassure a young guest that Owen was just there to fix the deck or take down a tree.

Katie had forgotten about her summer cut. It was when she saw an image of herself and her sisters ready for bed and lined up on the old chesterfield for a group shot that she remembered. The three tanned faces were looking straight into the camera, heads rounded by a scarcity of hair.

Katie was struck by the open, happy expressions in the black and white image. No trauma, no fear – nothing to indicate what might lie ahead in their lives. Instead they were just three children, well-fed, well-cared-for and ready to sleep the sleep of safety and comfort. Their beds might be cots in an old and basic cottage, but they would doze off to the sound of the river, chirping of the frogs and perhaps, if lucky, the call of loons out on the big lake. They had no idea how very lucky they were.

points of view

Pet peeves

steve galea

Loon Tales

IN 10,000 YEARS or so, when biologists are grappling with the question, "When did mankind first domesticate wild white-tailed deer as pets?", I expect they will probably conclude, "It happened in the Haliburton region of Ontario, in the early 2020s."

And I believe they will be correct in that assumption.

We haven't quite got to that point yet. After all, the deer that hang around on my lawn do not retrieve, heel, or sit on command – so far. But I figure with a month or so of good training, this is within the realm of possibility.

Despite this, I can totally envision the day when a little girl says, "Mommy, Daddy, can we get a pet deer? Oh please! I promise I will grow a garden for it. I will fence it inadequately too!"

This will cause the parents to reply, "Well, darling, the garden part is all well and good. But that's not all there is to it. You'll need to set up a bird feeder and refill it regularly too…"

"Oh, I will! I promise I will," the child will respond. "I will even grow some really expensive shrubs for it to mow down."

The parents will then think about it a bit and then say, "Look kiddo. If we get you a pet deer, you are going to have to clean up after it too. And it will not be allowed to get up on the furniture or run around on the road unsupervised."

Needless to say, the child will make all these hollow promises, but after the fawn stage is over, responsibility for the deer will fall on the parents.

Unfortunately, I think this is inevitable. I mean, this is the natural progression of where we are going with our local deer anyhow.

We currently have one deer on our road that sees us as we walk our dog – and rather than run away, as most normal deer would, it walks towards us and gives us a look that says something like, "Is it OK if I pet your puppy?"

My hunting dog finds this humiliating.

That deer is the exception – she's one of the good ones.

You see most of the deer that hang around on our street are what my dad used to call good-for-nothing malingerers. Not the kind that carry switchblades and hang around on corners with cigarettes hanging out of their mouths either. No sir. Our deer don't just hang around on the corners. Instead, they walk up and down the street like they own the place – and spend all their time deciding whose garden to dine on. And then they always decide it is ours.

This has led Jenn to experiment with all sorts of concoctions purported to make our plants far less desirable to deer. I'm not saying that it has gotten weird, but one time Jenn sent me out with a grocery list that included "eye of newt."

Needless to say, these efforts have not worked, even after blood sacrifices on the last full moon.

So, now we have arrived at the unlikely point where Jenn is more eager for the arrival of deer season than I am. But I burst that balloon the other day when I told her I refuse to set up a deer stand over her hibiscus.

Personally, I have come to conclude that if you can't beat them, join them.

Honestly, I've malingered with far worse.

pic of the past

Grade 1, 1954 at the school in West Guilford.
Back row from left, Eddie Adshead, David Sawyer, Brenda Sisson, Karen Sims, Laura Titus, Tommy Wilson, Denise Stamp, Lynda Sisson, Mervin Barry, Roger Bryant, Elaine Carr, Susan Prentice and Mrs. Chambers. Second row from left, Ron Barry, Bernard Bain, Audry Henry, Diane Schell, Diane Barry, Brent Sisson, Steve Sisson, Larry Sawyer, Tommy Adshead, Sharon Bain and Bradley Bryant. Front row from left, Nelda Barry, Bernice Morrison, Joyce Priest, Dale Barry, Helen Sims, Pat Bain, Mickey Titus and Dale McKnight. /FILE

Abbey Gardens Farmers' Market location closed indefinitely

The Haliburton Farmers' Market Association will no longer be running their Abbey Gardens market on Fridays. Establishing a new weekly market has presented many challenges; an unlucky combination of factors has resulted in this unfortunate decision. The HCFMA will continue to run markets on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in downtown Minden and on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Haliburton at Head Lake Park. The HCFMA would like to apologize for any inconvenience to their beloved patrons who are impacted by this decision.

Submitted

Historic display to be revealed in Eagle Lake

The Eagle Lake Women's Society is pleased to announce that the project to install a Historical Display at the Eagle Lake Beach is nearing completion.

The unveiling of the panels will take place Saturday, July 27 at 2 p.m. on the beach in Eagle Lake.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

The Eagle Lake Women's Society is grateful for the funding support received from the Municipality of Dysart et al, Haliburton County Development Corporation and Eagle Lake Community Church.

About Eagle Lake Women's Society:

The Society was founded in 1937 by concerned women in the hamlet of Eagle Lake.

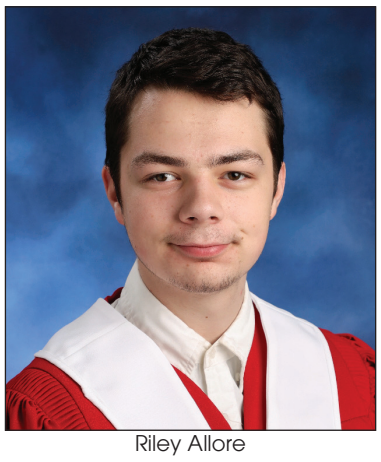
The motto of the society is "One can do a lot of good in this world, if one does not care who gets the credit for it." The Society continues to be a not- for- profit raising funds to benefit various charitable organizations in Haliburton County, as well as in Eagle Lake. The Society's primary fundraiser is the annual raffle of a quilt made by the members. Bake sales are also a source of funds for their charitable efforts.

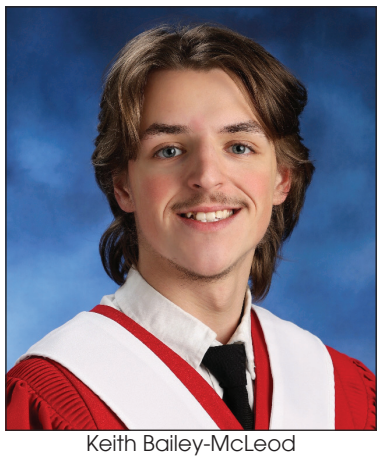
Submitted by the Eagle Lake Women's Society

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
vivian@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates


Riley Allore

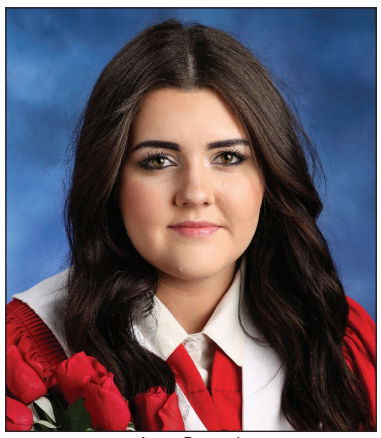

Keith Bailey-McLeod

Veronica Beynon

Brody Bolger

Austin Boyle

Damian Briand


Ava Bucek

William Burke

Kara Chumbley

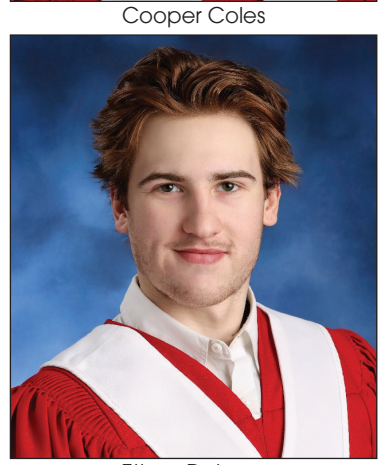
Cooper Coles

Taylor Consack

Jamie Crowe

Avery Degeer

Tommy Deterling


Ethan Dobson

Dustin Douglas

Evan Durepos

Haillie Embury

Racheal Fischer

Sophia Gervais

Congratulations Graduates 2024!

We wish you all the best today, and the best of luck in every future endeavor!

- Mike & Tanya Boisvert

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Grace Graham

Makenzie Gray

Darren Willmott

Kiara Harnois

Nathan Harrison

Alex Hendry

Izzy Hill

Kamryn Holden

Justin Horner

Carmen Horner-Xerri

Taylor Horsley

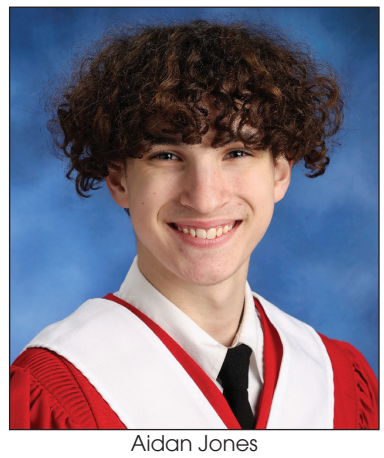
Paige Hough

Gabriel Humphrey

Olivia Humphries

Macie Hunter

Sienna Inglis


Aidan Jones

Cheyenne Lagace

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Emmett Litman

Kaelem Little

Sophia MacPhee

Laren Main

Lily Manning

Marley Mariani

Ceinwyn Mathura

Aleyah McGovern

Samuel McMahon

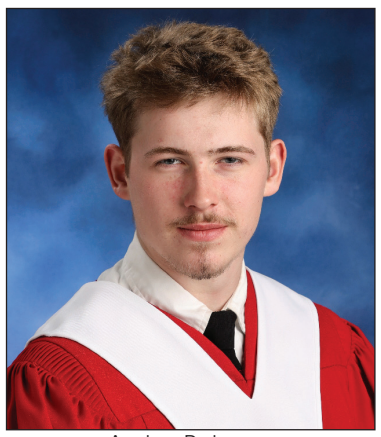
Sarah Mee

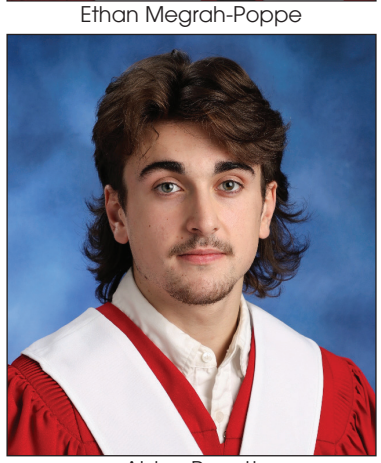
Ethan Megrah-Poppe

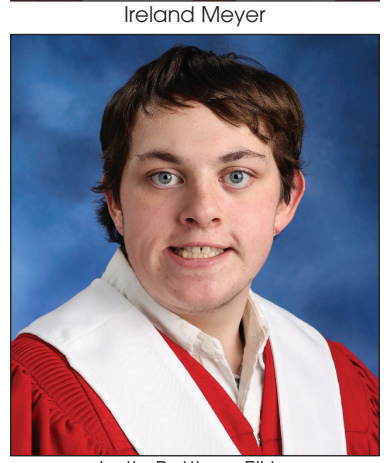
Ireland Meyer

Sofie Mills

Charlotte Moynes

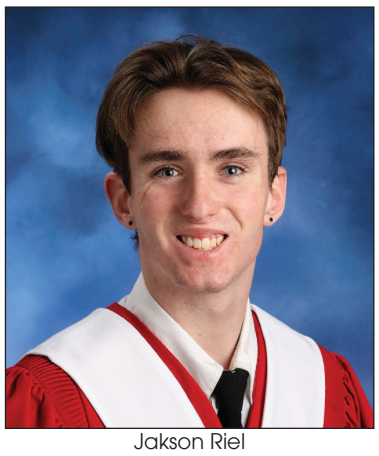

Austen Paterson


Aiden Perrott


Justin Pettipas-Elkins

Kaydan Reid

Class of 2024


Jakson Riel

Jake Sawchuk

Sofia Scott

Carson Simms

Mikayla Sisson

Baylie Stover

Macy Thompson

Allie Todd

Declan Tribble

Logan Tripp

Rowan Trumble

Evelyn Vanderstarre

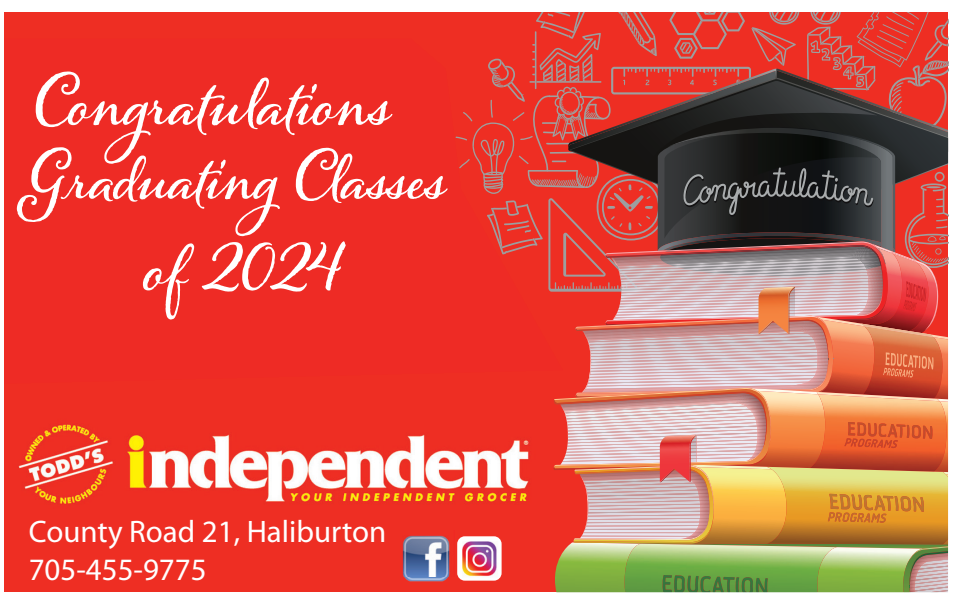
Jaicob Wagg

Alex Warford

Autumn Winder

HHSS graduates (no photo)

Sawyer Boutin
Mim Buwalda
Devonte Casey-Palmer
Todd Collins
Dakota DeSousa
Nathan Eden
Ryan Ellis
Hendrik Haase
Tess Husbands
Colin Knight
Brody Steele



HHSS Valedictorian - Abi Lewis

Good evening everyone, and welcome to the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduation of 2024! I would like to kick off my speech by expressing my gratitude. Thank you to the Graduation Steering Committee for their time and dedication to making this event possible. Thank you to our parents, teachers, friends, and mentors, your endless support has been invaluable and will never be forgotten. I would also like to take a moment to recognize the incredible support of our parents and guardians. From the late-night pickups to the early morning wake up calls, they've shouldered immense responsibilities as we've grown up, shaping us into the young adults we are today. Their unwavering commitment and love have truly been the foundation of our journey through high school. I would like to extend my appreciation to all the teaching staff of HHSS. Our teachers have been phenomenal throughout the challenges of COVID, and I'm grateful for their commitment and passion to see us learn. Furthermore, special thanks to all the essential personnel who've worked behind the scenes to keep our school running smoothly.

Finally, a massive thank you and congratulations to each one of you who crossed the stage today. Witnessing your transformation from the small, crazy kids I once knew to the remarkable individuals seated before me fills me with so much pride and joy. You have all come a long way, and each of you should take pride in the incredible individuals you have become. It's a privilege to stand alongside you as fellow members of the Hal Highs graduating class of 2024. As we celebrate this milestone, let's reflect on our journey and embrace the future with resilience.

Congratulations, Class of 2024, and thank you all.

When I was called down to the office to be told I was chosen to be this year's valedictorian, I'm not gonna lie, I thought I was about to get in trouble for skipping my class the day prior. Instead, I was told some very different news and may or may not have burst into tears. They weren't tears of sadness, but they were tears of joy and pride. I could not begin to express how honored I am to be here in front of you all, representing my graduating class, or how I see it, talking on behalf of my friends and peers who have helped me grow and become the person I am today.

It's kind of weird to think we're all sitting here today in red gowns, with a diploma in our hands. In the words of C.S Lewis "Isn't it funny how day to day nothing changes. But, when you look back everything is different." In ninth grade, it was a time with many barriers. Despite the school's best efforts, it was certainly not what we thought "the high school experience" would start off looking like. We had one class all day, every day for a month, wore masks indoors and outdoors, had no extracurricular activities, and were online for half the year. But even with the walls in place, we still managed to make memories and meet the new people that little did we know, would be the person we call our best friend four years later.

Abi Lewis presents her valedictorian speech to the HHSS graduating class of 2024. /Submitted

In tenth grade, "the high school experience" was starting to kick off. We have now upgraded from one class a day to two, and then by the second semester, four classes! This was the year we got to put on the Red Hawk jersey for the first time, go to our first dance, be a part of our first club, first buy out, and most importantly, try a cafe cookie for the very first time. And man oh man were those cookies good. Then eleventh grade came around the corner. Our first "normal" school year and when things started getting a little crazy. Red Hawk athletes were thriving, clubs were at their peak, courses became a little harder, musicals in the theater, and when some of us got our driver's licenses. This was also the year that Tim Hortons became our second home.

Then there was twelfth grade that came out of absolutely nowhere. Now, we're the big dogs! We were driving around with friends, barbecues at lunch, wearing a Red Hawk jersey for the last time, going to our last club meeting, prom, senior skip days, and the list goes on. Some seniors even embarked on a game I like to call "whose truck can make the louder noise". Unfortunately, my Ford Escape never quite made the cut. Then there were the tricky things like school grades, applying for schools and apprenticeships, and figuring out the next steps of your life. There's no doubt that Grade 12 has been one of the most stressful and pressure-filled years thus far, but I know that there were so many amazing things that happened that had the power to make that stress completely fade away.

During our time here, we've faced stress and hard work, but we also found joy, even when we felt small and scared. By tackling challenges and finding joy in perseverance, we've learned to be resilient and show grit in tough times. Some of us would also argue that we have undergone an incredible amount of pressure throughout these years. Whether it's from our parents, teachers, friends, sports, you name it, we all go through it. But a small fact I want to talk about is how diamonds are made. Diamonds are formed from carbon atoms deep within the Earth's mantle, where intense heat and pressure cause them to crystallize into the familiar diamond structure we know. But in simple "Abi" words, pressure makes diamonds…" Pressure makes diamonds". Without the pressure from everything around us, we would have no strive and would just be small atoms with no direction. Teachers put this pressure on us because although we don't always believe it, they know we can go out of our comfort zones and do amazing things. Family puts pressure on us to learn and to do our best. Without that, none of us would even care to BE the best. From all the stress and pressure we have overcome, we have all grown and come so far in life. And for that, I want to say cheers to all being diamonds and only growing from here.

It is important to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. High school has been a place of growth, discovery, and unexpected beauty. Even amidst challenges, whether academic, personal, or social, Haliburton has given a unique tapestry into our lives. From the beautiful landscapes that greeted us each morning, to the close friendships forged through living in such a close-knit community and the late nights this town had to offer, our time here has been nothing short of remarkable.

Each experience, whether joyful or challenging, has shaped us into the individuals we are today. In the words of Wendy Wunder, "The magic thing about home is that it feels good to leave, and it feels even better to come back". Who knows where we will all be in five, 10 years from now, but one thing is for certain, Hal High was our home away from home for many years and that will never be forgotten.

Now it is time we as Red Hawks leave the nest, spreading our wings to embark on diverse paths ahead. Some of us are leaving for college and university, eager to pursue knowledge and shape our futures. Others may choose apprenticeships, diving into hands-on experiences to develop valuable skills. Many will enter the workforce, contributing to society with dedication and passion. And for those who opt for a gap year, it's a chance to pause, reflect, and chart a course driven by dreams and aspirations. Whatever the path, whatever the destination, remember that each step forward is a testament to our growth, resilience, and potential. Abel Morales once said, "When it feels scary to jump, that is exactly when you jump, otherwise you end up staying in the same place your entire life". As we navigate the uncertainties of tomorrow, let's carry with us the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the dreams that fuel our ambitions.

Today marks not just the end of our academic journey but the beginning of a new chapter filled with limitless possibilities. As we celebrate this milestone, I encourage each of you to embrace the power of dreams. Pursue your passions with tireless determination and courage. Remember that greatness lies not in comparison to others but in becoming the best version of yourself. Let our aspirations be guided by integrity, kindness, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Let us embark on this next phase of life with boldness, knowing that by following our dreams, we not only fulfill our own potential but also inspire others to do the same.

Today is a day about you graduates. Today we celebrate our accomplishments, walls that have broken through, and the new incredible part of your life we are all about to start. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for everything. Thank you for the joy, the dumb decisions, the excitement, and the memories you have given me and the people around you. Today is not a goodbye, it is just the beginning of a new chapter. Congratulations class of 2024 and never forget, once a hawk, always a hawk.

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Annie Sullivan, played by Molly Botten, gets acquainted with Helen Keller, her new student, played by Evelyn Mardis, while brother James. Keller, Daniel Wheeler, observes with a degree of interest and skepticism during the Highlands Summer Festival production of *The Miracle Worker*. The production opened on July 15 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and continues until July 23. For tickets call 705-457-9933. /Photos by Wendy Evenden

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Still no date for MPAC property value reassessment

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation broke down the mechanisms for assigning property values in Highlands East.

But there is still no word on when property values, that have been stagnant since 2016, will be reassessed and updated.

MPAC appeared before township council July 9 as part of a new insights campaign launched in February. It focuses on how the residential property landscape has evolved in the last 10 years.

Roughly about the last time the value of properties had been assessed.

Sarah Groves, a municipal and stakeholder account manager at MPAC, said the Ministry of Finance is responsible for inking assessment and taxation legislation and policies.

MPAC is the independent body, funded by all Ontario municipalities, tasked with calculating and distributing assessments for all properties and buildings throughout the province.

"Our role is to accurately assess and classify all properties in Ontario," Groves said.

Municipalities set tax rates as determined by annual budget requirements. Property taxes are primarily used to pay for the municipality's capital and operating expenses.

Individual property owners pony up the taxes to their respective municipality to cover services. They also help set market values through sales.

She said MPAC monitors the market and assesses newly built and renovated properties are things to keep property data current. Property assessments are periodically updated by way of reassessments set to legislated valuation dates.

"This is when we determine what every single property in Ontario could have reasonably sold for in its current state and condition at a particular point in time," Groves said. "Regular revaluation of properties ensures that assessments stay up to date and similar properties of similar value in the same municipality pay similar property taxes."

But such a reassessment hasn't taken place in Ontario since 2016.

That valuation date will be set by the provincial government.

Eventually.

The five major factors when assessing residential properties include the age of the building, the property's location, quality of construction, and lot dimensions and exterior square footage.

The property tax system is based on everybody paying their portion of what it costs to deliver community services.

"To do this, all properties are assigned a value at a common valuation date," Groves said. "Current value assessment is market value at a point in time."

That last point in time was almost a decade ago.

MPAC has noticed a trend by which price increases are pushing home buyers to look farther afield outside the Greater Toronto Area. The location of homes valued less than $750,000 has shifted.

"This means that there's limited options for first-time home buyers," she said.

Seventy-four per cent of residential properties in 2013 had an estimated home value of less than $500,000. Of those homes, 91 per cent had a value of less than $750,000.

Those numbers today have dropped to 19 per cent and 48 per cent respectively.

"Current home prices are a reflection of various economic forces at play," she said.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said the permit process for building a new home asks the cost of the build and the property's market value.

"Obviously those numbers are critical to determining how much the building permit is going to cost me," he said.

There's no way to know the 2016 value of a property with a house that's built in 2024. That was the year of the last MPAC property assessments.

"It would probably be the number that I would think my real estate agent said the house would be worth in 2024," Ryall said.

For taxation purposes, the property's market value in 2016 can be less than its building costs this year.

"When a property owner builds a new home, whether it was last year, this year, next year, we do time-adjust the value as we're entering it into our system," Groves said. "Right now, our systems calculate a home's value or a land's value based on what it would have been worth as if Jan. 1, 2016."

Some properties' values will increase 100 per cent while others could increase 300 per cent whenever the next assessment occurs.

"Is there going to be a way for this to be adjusted?" he said. "In other words, if somebody did have to go up significant amounts, are they going to get that hit all at once? Because it could double their taxes, hypothetically."

"It could be a large increase depending on how that property's value increased or decreased relative to that same type of property throughout the municipality," Groves said. "It may go from $500,000 to $1 million and the neighbour's property may not double.

"It depends on what that valuation date will be and what those similar properties are worth at that point in time."

Because nobody knows the date of the next property value reassessment, she said there's no way to know how any kind of tax "phase-in" would look.

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Tuesday, August 6th
Children's Entertainment 5:30–7pm • BBQ Beef on a Bun @ 5pm
Rotary Car Draw @ 8pm • 7pm: ★ JEFF MOULTON & FRIENDS ★
Tuesday, August 13th • 6:30pm ★ GORD KIDD AND FRIENDS ★
Tuesday, August 20th • 6:30pm ★ JESS KNIGHTS WITH NICK RUSSELL ★
Tuesday, August 27th • 6:30pm ★ THE RECYCLED TEENAGERS ★
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Municipalities can further their reach online, says consultant

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Expanding technology will more effectively connect Highlands East with its residents and improve service delivery.

The township council heard during its July 9 meeting that the goal of the five-year Haliburton County IT Digital Strategy is to achieve greater collaboration in the digital space.

The strategy came out of the recent service delivery review. An opportunity was seen to expand collaboration among the county, lower-tier municipalities, and the library in the IT and digital space.

Ben Perry, of Perry Group Consulting, said the goal is to position all partners to work together to deliver innovative and progressive solutions, drive efficiency and effectiveness, and delivery improved services and value for money to residents and businesses.

"I think, actually, it's a model for collaboration going forward and really set the tone for the future work," Perry said.

The majority of people today shop and bank online. As many as 76 per cent of people regularly interact with their various levels of government online.

"Using technology can become a multiplier of efficiency and effectiveness and productivity of people that work at the municipality," he said. "Not pursuing technology, not taking advantage of technology risks becoming a reputational risk. Becoming an out-of-date government that doesn't deliver services in a way customers expect."

Effectively utilizing technology has become a core competency for municipalities.

As a bonus, incorporating more technology can lower service delivery costs, he said.

Face-to-face service typically costs between $15 and $30. Telephone-based transactions run about $5. Interacting online with customers cost about $1, he said.

"So there is a real cost imperative to actually shifting services online," Perry said.

He said the municipality will need to continually invest in technology through the annual budgeting process.

"If we're going to move into the 21st Century, why not take a look at the 22nd while we're at it," said Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall.

Ryall broached the possibility of user stress and ambiguity from an online interaction.

"The idea is I really don't know what I'm looking for and now you're asking me to make decisions," he said. "I'm not sure if that is something that can be done in the actual process or is that something that can be in a preamble when you go to that particular webpage or phone?"

"The intent is not to go all digital so that that's the only option," Perry said. "If customers want to come in and want to phone, then we should always supply those options. We're not turning off other channels."

> ***"Using technology can become a multiplier of efficiency and effectiveness and productivity of people that work at the municipality."***
>
> — Ben Perry, Perry Group Consulting

Perry said it's paramount to ensure the user experience is pleasant. Historically, municipalities have focused on internal processes as opposed to the user's experience.

"Make sure that we've designed our processes and services around the customer, around the user," he said. "Not around our own internal processes."

Mike March, Haliburton County's IT director, said the phone access is a strategic link that's been highlighted throughout the process to develop the digital strategy.

"What we're going to try to do as a part of any project that we bring forward is make sure that the user experience is up front," March said. "For something like the phone system, that would be taking surveys or getting feedback from both our staff and from people who use it."

Councillor Cam McKenzie said he often directs people to the township's website when he's asked about something by a resident.

"Probably 25 per cent of those people don't have access to computers," he said. "We got, I think, a significant number of people out there who we have to service that we don't want to forget about. And I'm not anti-tech, either."

"I think this is very representative of that," Perry said. "Seventy-six per cent of people have maybe interacted online with governments. The people that have technology do and the people, obviously, that don't aren't able to."

Closing that gap across the levels of government is something that's being done with investments in broadband service, he said.

"Digital strategy doesn't say we need to go digital only," Perry said. "We need to support the community where they are, we need to meet the community where they are. Lots of people are online, but lots of people aren't too."

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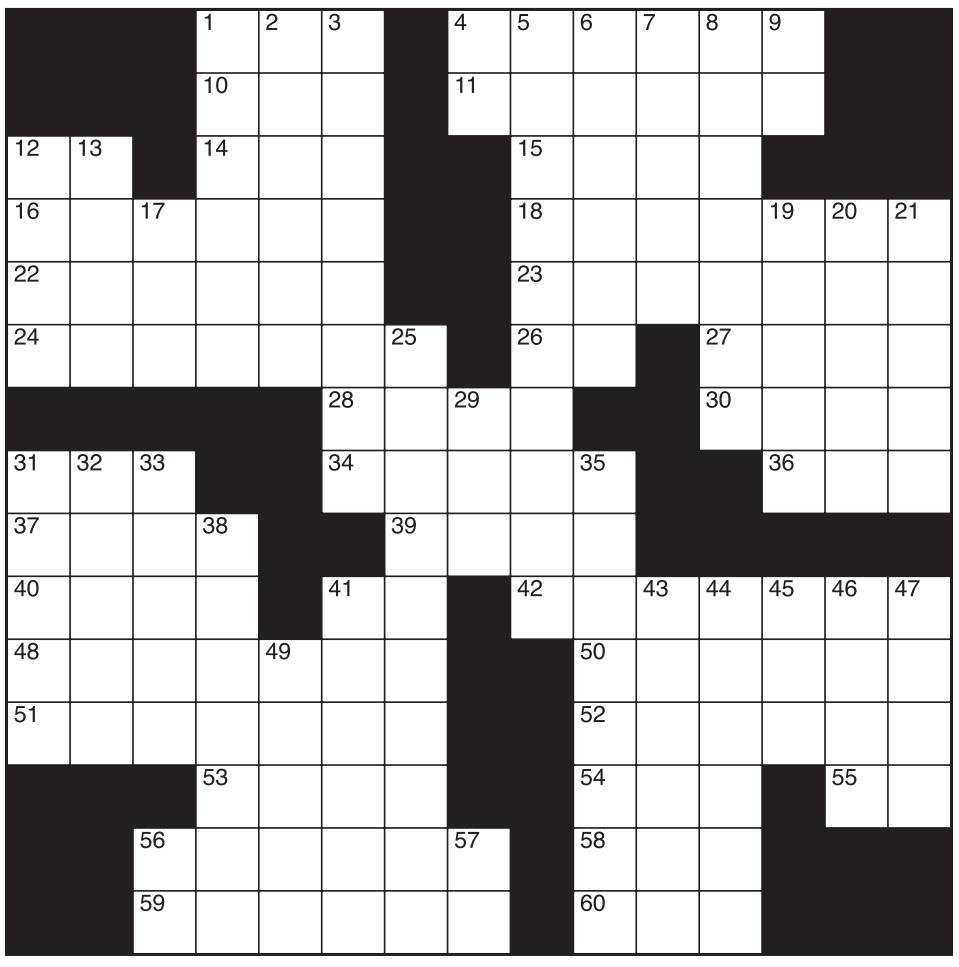
Making a splash

Family Fun Day at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association Fish Hatchery featured activities like a bouncy castle and obstacle course, fishing and minnow races, a wild life show, and face painting on Saturday, July 13. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*



CLUES ACROSS
1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
4. Cause to become entangled
10. Swiss river
11. Conversation
12. "Magnum" was one
14. Small integer
15. Christmas
16. Of a specific mountain region
18. Burrowing bugs
22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
23. A type of syndrome
24. Cephalopod mollusks
26. Metric ton
27. Ornamental box
28. As quickly as can be done
30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur
31. Old TV part
34. Extinct flightless birds
36. Former CIA
37. Successor
39. Archaic form of you
40. Within
41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
42. Not sacred or biblical
48. Written law
50. Popular hairstyle
51. Congressman
52. Type of font
53. A predetermined period in office
54. Pouch
55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
56. One from a particular Asian region
58. One's sense of self-esteem
59. Headgear used to control a horse
60. The habitat of wild animals

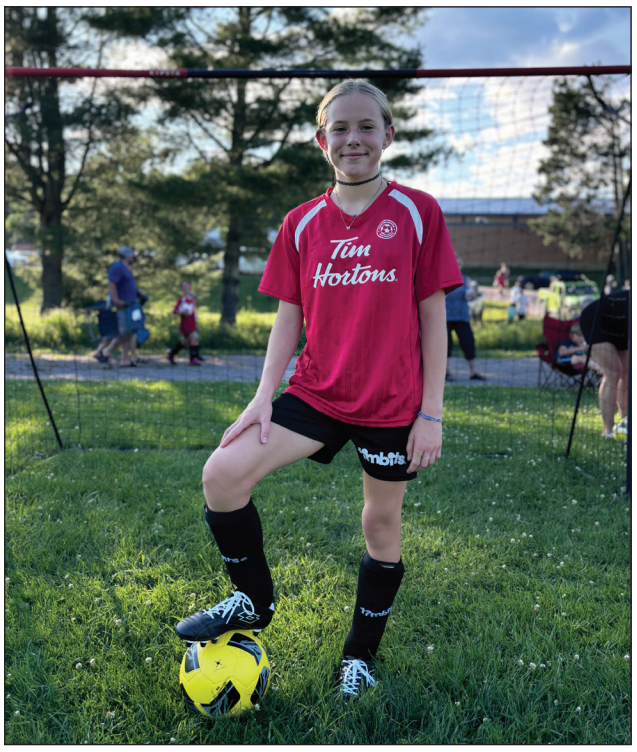
CLUES DOWN
1. A right conferred through legal means
2. American island state
3. Inflexibly entrenched
4. "Pollock" actor Harris
5. Foolish person
6. Follows a particular Chairman
7. Choose
8. Sunrooms
9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
13. South American hummingbird
17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
19. Wild dog
20. Units of land
21. Footwear
25. Possessing a constant temperature
29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
31. Popular game
32. Pension (German)
33. Giant of industry
35. Inferred
38. One who revolves
41. Kept possession of
43. Loss of electricity
44. Stoppered bottle
45. Everything
46. First to walk on the moon
47. Engrave
49. Female organs
56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
57. Northeast

Answers on page 18

Children's Grassroots Soccer

The second week was another great sunny afternoon but the heat on the fields was felt by all the players as they pushed through the discomfort and sweat. The teams are beginning to find their rhythm and mesh well with each other as they go face to face with different opponents throughout the season. The coaches do a wonderful job helping each player face new challenges every week as the 200+ players gather each Thursday night. See you next Week.

Submitted by Adam Brown



Girls 10-13 Red Team
Jalynn Chambers - She hustled hard all game, despite the oppressive heat, and showed up for her team mates again and again. Playing left wing midfielder, Jalynn ran nonstop both defending her zone and carrying the ball up field and making great passes to the forwards. Her grit and determination to be a winning team player showed all game long. Way to go Jalynn!

Girls 7-9 Purple Team
Lettie Blaney - When asked what her Favorite part about soccer is she told me "Making new friends and having fun."

Girls 7-9 Red Team
Ellie Nimigon - Ellie scored the first goal for the team tonight! Her contagious smile and enthusiasm inspire the team to play the game with passion. /Photos submitted

Mixed 4-6 Cali Blue Team
Hadley Ryckman - Hadley says her favourite part of playing soccer is scoring goals! Hadley played mostly forwards tonight, she ran so hard and pushed herself to support her team! She passed the ball and helped her team find their positions!

Boys 7-9 Royal Team
Jack Hunter - He is 7 years old and got the MVP for being all over the ball all game helping out on both defense, forward and had his turn as goalie.

Girls 10-13 Black Team
Ruby Mansfield - Chosen MVP because of her sportsmanship, and hard work. She volunteered to play with the opposing team when that team was down players and no one else wanted to. She assisted a goal during the game and was always in the right place at the right time. When asked why she loves soccer she said "I love how soccer is a team sport. You are so in sync with your team, and I love the sweat, the work you have to put into it and I love how fun and competitive it is!"

Boys 10-13 Silver Team
Oliver Wuilleme - Chosen as MVP for the Silver team as he was an excellent goal keeper and made a number of brilliant saves!

Track and field athletes make their mark at international meet

The newly formed Highlands Track and Field team put Haliburton County on the map at the Flying Angels International Meet held at York University on July 8th and 9th. The meet featured clubs from as far as Bermuda and Maryland. Our small but mighty team finished 16th overall out of 55 teams.

Addyson Parish led the team as runner-up for individual U16 Girls finisher with two gold and a bronze. Addy hit the mark of 5.00m in the Long Jump and ran a Personal Best of 13.03 in the 80m Hurdles to place first in both those events. She achieved bronze in Triple Jump that day, jumping shy of her Personal Best.

Up and coming runner Lucas Lawson was second in the U11 Boys 800m with a strong time of 2:50.87 and was fifth in 400m finishing the race in 1:13.37.

Sprinter Wes Cowen placed sixth in U13 Boys Long Jump and achieved a Personal Best in the 100m. Patrick Valentini was first in Discus and second in the Javelin with new Personal Bests in both events; and Linus Gervais was second in U13 Boys Long Jump, third in 200m Hurdles and sixth in both 800m and 1500m. Our U13 team finished fourth out of 19 teams overall.

In the U15 Girls division, Annika Gervais also achieved Personal Bests in all her events including eighth in the 400m with a time of 1:03.59 and second-place finish in the 200m Hurdles.

Izzy Valentini jumped a new Personal Best in the U16 Girls Long Jump and had a strong run and fourth-place finish in the 800m. Fallon Thorn achieved new Personal Bests in both the 100 and 200m. And the U16 Girls relay team of Addy, Annika, Fallon and Izzy ran to a fourth place finish in the 4x100 relay and were the only Sprint Medley team still left standing at the end of two very hot long days to complete the race for gold. This helped springboard our U16 team to a fourth-place finish overall in this division.

In the U18 Girls competition, Maddy Walker set a new mark for herself in the Javelin. In the U20 division, Paige Hough set a new Personal Best in the High Jump and achieved a second-place finish in Discus and was eighth in the 100m Hurdles.

Competing for the Peterborough Pacers, local runner Brechin Johnston had strong runs in very fast fields of 800 and 1500 U18 Boys and Graham Backus finished sixth with a new Personal Best the U18 110m Hurdles.

The team competes next at the Minor Track Association Outdoor Championships on July 20 and 21st.

Submitted by Karen Gervais

Athletes from U11 through U20 divisions from Highlands Track and Field warm-up before events at the Toronto Track and Field Centre. /Submitted by Karen Gervais

Parish wins provincial triple jump crown

Addyson Parish represented Legion District F this past weekend at the Provincial Legion Track and Field Meet held at York University. Parish was one of 40 athletes chosen to represent District F, which spans as far as Oshawa and Belleville.

Parish started the competition strong, making the final in the U16 Girls 80m Hurdles, where she ran a Personal Best time of 12.94 to finish fifth.

The next morning, Parish came out big in the Triple Jump competition, nailing a jump of 11.02 on her first attempt. Parish went on to win the event with a big leap and Personal Best of 11.48m, well ahead of the second-place jump of 10.94m.

Parish placed sixth in Long Jump later that day, jumping well below her Personal Best of 5.03m as she struggled to hit the long jump board.

Parish waits in anticipation to see if she will make Team Ontario and compete at the Legion National Meet in Calgary from August 9-11.

Her coaches are extremely proud of her results and commitment to improvement in all her events.

Submitted by Karen Gervais

Addy Parish stands on the podium after her gold medal jump. /Submitted

Notice
(Applicant – Liapis)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Minnicock Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 30, Concession 15, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan 19R-10990 made by **Holding Jones Vanderveen Inc.**

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

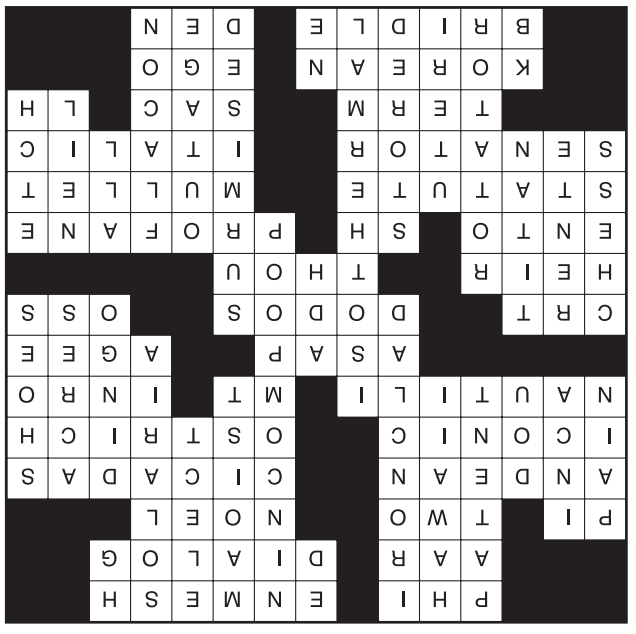
Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 9th day of July, 2024.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Day at the derby

The 2024 Kennisis Lake Rock Bass Derby was a huge success. Our participants endured the rain and caught a total of 95.97 pounds of Rock bass! Congratulations to Wilson Butler in the 12 and under division catching a total of 9.10 pounds and to Stefan Campbell and Laura Neely in the 13 and over category catching a total of 17.7 pounds.
A special thanks to Britney King from U-Links for educating us about the dangerous use of lead based fishing tackle on our environment and for providing the participants with new safe alternatives, information sheets and activities. /Submitted

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To apply, please email your cover letter and resume in PDF format to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca no later than 4:30pm on Monday August 5th, 2024.

We thank all who apply for this position. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Christina "Chris" Roberts

Passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, July 10th, 2024, at the age of 87.

Beloved wife to Fred for 67 years. Dear mother of Clayton (deceased), Kim and her husband Lee, Fred and his wife Allison. Loving nannie to Melissa, Ash-Lee, Johanna, Tom, Brigette, Sue and great nannie to Olan and Liam. Dear sister to George and his wife June. Fondly remembered by her family and friends.

Chris led an adventurous life, living in the Arctic, travelling to Africa, Europe and Australia.

It was Chris' wishes for Private Family Arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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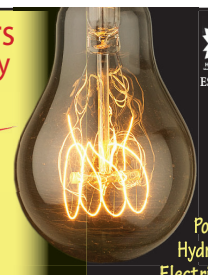

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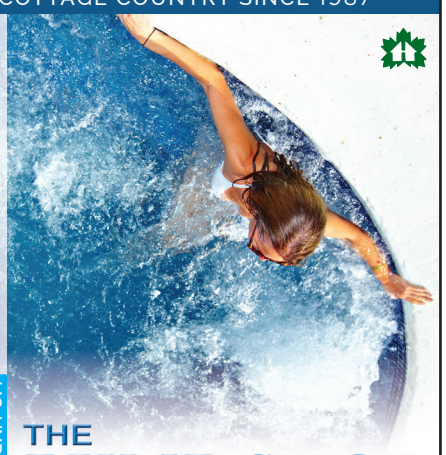

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When the province decided to close Irondale school, the parents fought back

FESTIVAL REVIEWS
Tempus Fugit, How the Other Half Lives & I Ought to Be in Pictures - County Life

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

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Tuesday, July 17, 2001
Vol. 118 No. 14
$1 including GST

DARREN LUM/Echo

A Highlands fling

Saturday's Highland Games in Haliburton attracted the largest crowd ever. At one point, cars were parked all along Head Lake. While many came to watch the dancers compete, above, the border collie herding demonstrations, heavy events and massed bands were also very popular. For more photos of this colourful and popular event, see page 8.

Head Lake geese given a new home in Hindon Township

STEVE GALEA
Special to The Echo

The geese of Head Lake are taking a vacation courtesy of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), and Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey is hoping that it's a long one.

Early in the morning on July 11, 12 people from the CWS, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and the Municipality of Dysart et al gathered to trap a total of 68 adult and gosling Canada geese. They were then moved from the goose-fouled Haliburton waterfront to two undisclosed and remote sites in Hindon Township.

Fearrey said, "It's a goose overpopulation issue and a local health hazard."

(Goose droppings and the accompanying bacteria have contributed to the closure the Head Lake beach for swimming four times in the last ten years. See accompanying article).

"These birds are not native to Haliburton. People can hardly walk the waterfront without stepping in their mess and our kids have to deal with it on the football fields. Dysart has been concerned with this issue for a long time. We're doing this to protect the public and reclaim our waterfront," Fearrey said

He initiated the action a while ago when CWS staff were up banding the geese of Head Lake. Shortly after, he applied and received a permit to trap and transfer the the birds.

MNR Biologist Dave Flowers described the project as a co-operative effort between three levels of government. "The CWS provided the permits and expertise, the MNR scouted suitable release locations and made equipment available, and the municipality provided additional help and support."

He's happy with the way the project panned out. "The trap and transfer went smoothly. No geese were hurt and as far as I

See **Adult** *page 6*

Cleaning up Haliburton's Rotary Beach is not just a matter of removing the geese

ERIK MARTENSSON
Staff Reporter

Summers without a beach.

It's hard to believe, but it's been the case for residents of Haliburton village for several years now. Use of the once popular and busy Rotary Beach has been in a steady decline for almost a decade, and on most days the beach sits vacant despite the sweltering temperatures.

The lamentable exodus of bathers has been prompted by health concerns, concerns that have seen the beach posted by the Haliburton Kawartha PineRidge District Health Unit for the last two years, and four times out of the last ten.

Responsible for monitoring all the county's public bathing beaches, the health unit takes bacteriological samples at Rotary Beach and publicizes warnings if bacteria counts become too high. The posting is not a ban on swimming, but a

See **Sandbar** *page 14*

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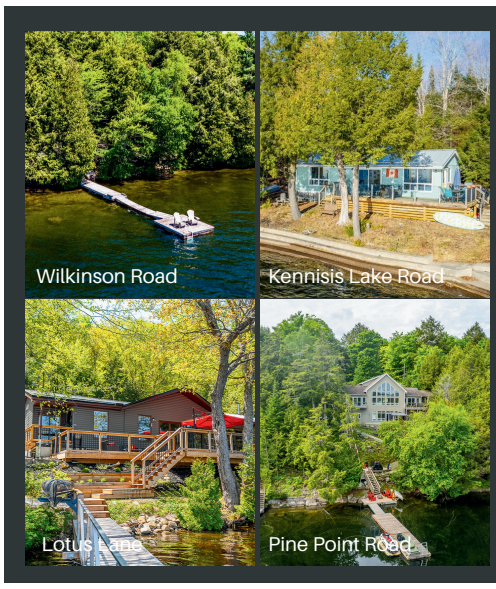

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JULY 20TH 2024
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1025 Lotus Lane
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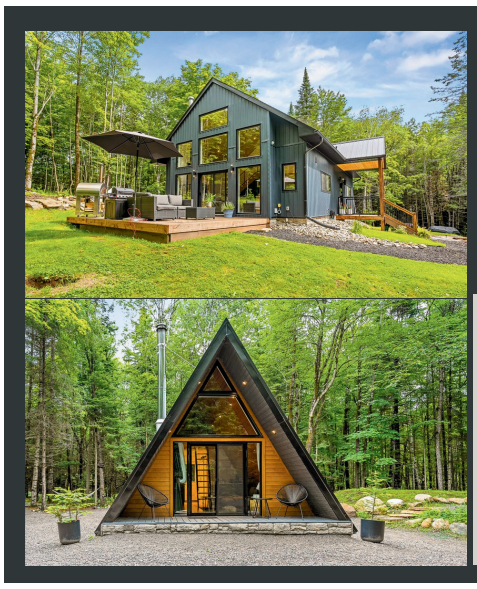

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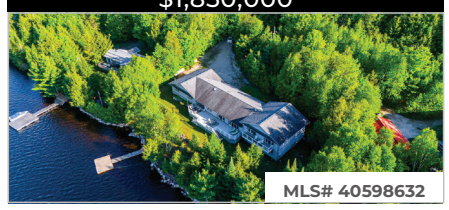

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